

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 L-03

DRC-01 CU-05 /093 W

----- 001025

R 020755Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7532

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 11706

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINR, CB

SUBJECT: GKR SENTENCES PERSONS IMPLICATED IN JUNE 4 ASSASSINATIONS

REFS: A) PHNOM PENH 10287(NOTAL)

B) PHNOM PENH 11416 (KHMER REPORT, AUGUST 27, 1974)

C) FBIS BANGKOK D010957 PHNOM PENH DOMESTIC CAMBODIAN 010730

1. ON SEPTEMBER 1, THE GKR ANNOUNCED (REF C) THAT THE PHNOM PENH MILITARY TRIBUNAL HAD HANDED DOWN ITS SENTENCES ON THOSE PERSONS IMPLICATED IN THE JUNE 4 ASSASSINATIONS OF MINISTER OF EDUCATION KEO SANGKIM AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR THACH CHIA. THE BRIEF RADIO BROADCAST TOOK PAINS TO STRESS THAT THE TRIBUNAL HAD CONDUCTED AN EXHAUSTIVE INVESTIGATION AND THAT ITS DECISIONS WERE TAKEN IN STRICT CONFORMITY WITH EXISTING JUDICIAL PROCEDURES AND LAWS. ALSO NOTED WAS THE FACT THAT THE SUSPECTS WERE NOT CHARGED WITH OFFENSES AGAINST INTERNAL SECURITY (I.E. OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY) BUT SIMPLY OF COMPLICITY IN THE ASSASSINATIONS.

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2. THE ALLEGED ASSASSIN, STUDENT THUCH SEY KY, WHO

HAS DISAPPEARED (REFTEL A), AND ANOTHER STUDENT WERE SENTENCED TO DEATH IN ABSENTIA. DECISIONS ON FIFTEEN OTHER PERSONS WERE ALSO HANDED DOWN, INCLUDING MOST OF THE STUDENTS WHO HAD BEEN CONDUCTING A HUNGER STRIKE IN PRISON (REFTEL B). THE SENTENCES RANGED FROM LIFE IMPRISONMENT THROUGH TWENTY YEARS TO FIVE YEARS AT HARD LABOR, WITH FOUR SUSPECTS ACQUITTED.

3. COMMENT: THE DECISIONS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY CAUSE UNHAPPINESS AMONG STUDENT/TEACHER ACTIVISTS, SINCE THE RELEASE OF THE STUDENTS CONDUCTING THE HUNGER STRIKE HAS BEEN ONE OF THEIR RECENT DEMANDS (REFTEL B). HOWEVER, THIS DISCONTENT WILL BE MANAGE-ABLE IF, AS WE UNDERSTAND IS POSSIBLE, LON NOL FOLLOWS HIS RECENT PRACTICE OF GRANTING CLEMENCY. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE TRIBUNAL'S DECISION.
KEELEY

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Message Attributes

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